

NOTICE OF GRANT AVAILABILITY

NAME OF GRANT PROGRAM:

The New Jersey Governor's Council for
Medical Research and Treatment of Autism

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

P.L. 1999, c. 105 and amending P.L. 2001, c. 338
P.L. 2003, c. 144, PL2007, c168, NJSA 30:6D-56

GRANT PROGRAM NO. 13-AUC-4

TYPE OF AWARDS TO BE ISSUED:

Cost reimbursement grants

PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS WILL BE USED:

The purpose of this grant program is to support up to two clinical research program sites capable of advancing the mission of the New Jersey Autism Center of Excellence (NJ ACE). The mission of the NJ ACE is to research, apply and advance best practices in the understanding, prevention, evaluation and treatment of autism spectrum disorders (ASDs), enhancing the lives of individuals across their lifespans. The NJ ACE will consist of up to three clinical research program sites and a coordinating center. Funding has been awarded to one clinical research program site. The NJ ACE Program Sites grantees will develop and conduct clinical research projects that have the potential to improve the physical and/or behavioral health and well-being of individuals with ASDs. The projects will address one of a subset of the short or long-term objectives described in the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) Strategic Plan (<http://iacc.hhs.gov/strategic-plan/2012/index.shtml>). The Council is particularly interested in projects with potential direct clinical impact. See the program guidelines at www.nj.gov/health/autism for more details. The program site application must present the detailed yearly objectives that will demonstrate progress. In some cases, the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDH) may suggest modifications to the yearly objectives or require additional objectives before awarding the grant. Grantees must describe in detailed yearly progress reports their actions towards meeting these objectives. Grantees will need to meet their stated objectives, or clearly demonstrate how they are moving towards achieving those objectives, as a condition of funding for the following years. If grantees meet some but not all yearly objectives, the New Jersey Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism (Council) reserves the right to bring in reviewers to assess whether progress is adequate and, as may be necessary, to design a remediation plan. To advance the goal of widespread data sharing among ASD researchers, investigators funded under the NJ ACE Program Sites Grant Program are expected to share those data via the National Database for Autism Research (NDAR). See the program guidelines at www.nj.gov/health/autism NDAR website (ndar.nih.gov) for more details. The NJ ACE Coordinating Center, which has been awarded funding under the NJ ACE Coordinating Center grant program, will provide common management and support functions to unify the NJ ACE Program Sites, increase efficiency, and reduce costs. The Coordinating Center, working closely with the Council, will serve as the voice of NJ ACE. The Coordinating Center will unify the NJ ACE Program Sites by promoting the sharing of best practices in the conduct of clinical research and lessons learned. The Coordinating Center will also provide project assistance and training as needed. Areas of support that the Coordinating Center is to provide include, but are not limited to, advising sites regarding Institutional Review Board issues, developing tools and standard operating procedures for data entry, management and submission to NDAR, organizing training sessions, as needed, for the use of clinical instruments such as the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS), providing biostatistics consultation services, and organizing regular meetings of the Program Site Program Directors and Principal Investigators. Finally, the Coordinating Center will conduct a multi-method, cross-site evaluation to assess context, implementation, participation, and achievement of yearly project objectives, and provide feedback and support to the Program Sites as needed.

AMOUNT OF MONEY IN THE GRANT PROGRAM:

A combined total of up to \$4,250,000 will be made available for this grant program 13-AUC-4 for up to five years with up to \$425,000 annually for each of the two program site grantees. Awards will begin on or about December 31, 2012. The Council reserves the right to distribute funds among this grant program 13-AUC-4. The Council reserves the right not to fund any grant in this program to the maximum amount, or not to fund any grant in this program at all.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS MUST COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

1. Terms and Conditions for the Administration of Grants
2. General and specific Grant Compliance requirements issued by the Granting Agency.
3. Applicable Federal Cost Principles relating to the Applicant

GROUP OR ENTITIES WHICH MAY APPLY FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM:

Public and private non-profit research entities in the State of New Jersey may apply for a Council grant under this program. A qualifying research entity is defined as any academic institution, research organization, public or private non-profit entity, located in the State of New Jersey, with a demonstrated capability to conduct grant funded research, but in no case can an individual be a qualifying research entity. The qualified research entity shall have established procedures to receive and administer Federal and State grants, including a Grant Administration Office (or equivalent) that is responsible for overseeing grant programs, procedures for the protection of human subjects as regulated by the National Institutes of Health, and an Institutional Review Board (IRB) that will approve proposed research.

QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED BY APPLICANT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A GRANT:

Any individuals with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research as the Program Director/Principal Investigator are invited to work with their organizations to develop an application for support. Applicants must be affiliated with a New Jersey State academic institution, research organization, or public or private non-profit entity with a demonstrated capability to conduct grant-funded research, as defined above. The Council will not award grants to unaffiliated individuals. Individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups as well as individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply. Individuals of any nationality or citizenship status may apply provided that they are employed by or affiliated with a qualifying research entity. Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with clinical sites in New Jersey in order to ensure sufficient patient recruitment. Applicants are further encouraged to collaborate with researchers in New Jersey, out-of-State, or out of the United States who could contribute additional professional expertise and/or consultation. The structure of the collaborative arrangement should be described in the application.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

An application for a Grant is to be submitted electronically and upon receipt of a letter of intent, inquiry or concept paper sent to the address listed below. Eligible agencies are to submit grant applications through the Department's System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE). Eligible agencies must register at the following internet website address: www.sage.nj.gov. The Request for Applications (RFA) can be obtained by writing or calling the office listed below.

Application procedures: The Council will only accept for review applications submitted electronically through the New Jersey System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE) (www.sage.nj.gov). The Council will not accept grant applications sent by telefacsimile.

After an applicant logs on to the SAGE, the applicant's organization representative must authorize the applicant as an approved user and assign the applicant to the grant before the application can be accessed. Before logging on to SAGE, applicants should refer to the "Instructions for On-line Grant Applications" under "Grant Opportunities" on the Council's website (www.nj.gov/health/autism).

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

New Jersey Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism

369 South Warren Street, Fifth Floor, Room 502

PO Box 360

Trenton, NJ 08625-0360

TELEPHONE: (609) 633-8740

FAX: (609) 943-4213

E-MAIL: NJGCA@doh.state.nj.us

DEADLINE BY WHICH APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED:

Letter of Intent is 5:00 PM on Friday, August 31, 2012.

The submission deadline for the grant applications is 5:00 PM on Friday, September 28, 2012.

In addition, the Council must receive from the applicant two hard copies of the application (one being a signed original) at the Council's office, by 5:00 PM on Wednesday, October 3, 2012.

No exceptions will be made.

DATE BY WHICH APPLICANT SHALL BE NOTIFIED WHETHER THEY WILL RECEIVE FUNDS:

December 14, 2012.

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